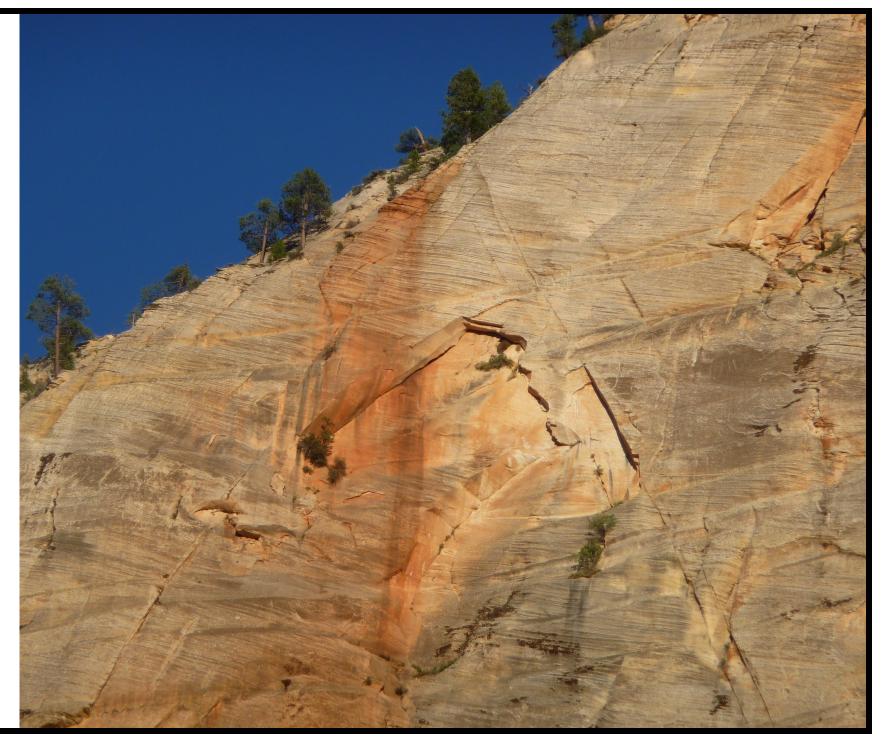


Surviving Zion Materials

### Wetland

- A *wetland* habitat is where the ground is saturated with and sometimes covered in water.
- In Zion, wetlands include swamps and marshes and are typically found near rivers and streams.
- Many different plants and animals (both land and water dwelling) find homes in wetlands.
- Zion wetland features:
  - · Unavoidable water, often in shallow pools
  - · Humid air
  - · Moist, soft soil
  - · Sun on the outside and shade beneath the larger plants



Surviving Zion Materials

### Cliff

- A *cliff* is a large, vertical, exposed rock.
- In Zion, cliffs are made of sandstone and tower about 1,000-2,000 feet over the canyon floor.
- Some very hardy plants and animals find homes on a cliff.
- Zion cliff features:
  - · Occasional water from rain or snow
  - · Exposure to wind and extreme temperatures (hot and cold)
  - · Little-to-no soil
  - · Sun on the cliff face, shady in overhangs
  - · Difficult to access
  - · Lots of cracks, alcoves, and small caves

### Riparian



Surviving Zion Materials

### Riparian

- The *riparian* habitat is the area where land and flowing water meet.
- In Zion the riparian habitat occurs mostly along the Virgin River and small streams.
- Many different plants and animals (both land and water dwelling) find homes in riparian habitats.
- Zion riparian habitat features:
  - · Water readily available, still pools of water sometimes present
  - · Moist, nutrient-rich soil
  - · Sun on the outside and shade on the interior of the tree canopy
  - · Annual flash floods rush through the area
  - · Rocks and flood debris are often present



Surviving Zion Materials

### **Desert**

- A *desert* habitat is where potential for water loss (by plant and animal use, and by evaporation) is greater than gain.
- In Zion, desert habitat covers the park's lowest elevation.
- Very hardy plants and animals find homes in a desert.
- Zion desert features:
  - · Little water availability
  - · Very dry air, sometimes windy
  - · Dry and often salty soil
  - · Lots of sunlight
  - · Extreme heat in summer, cold in winter
  - · Bare rocks and cliffs are sometimes present

## Pinyon-Juniper Woodland



### Pinyon-Juniper Woodland

- A *pinyon-juniper woodland* is a forest community dominated by juniper and pinyon pine trees.
- In Zion the pinyon-juniper woodland is the most common habitat.
- Various plants and animals find homes in a pinyon-juniper woodland.
- Zion pinyon-juniper woodland features:
  - · Limited water availability, mostly from monsoon rains or snow
  - · Dry air
  - · Bare rock and crumbly soil
  - · Occasional wildfires
  - · Exposure to summer heat and winter cold

# Ponderosa Pine Fores

Surviving Zion Materials

### **Ponderosa Pine Forest**

- A *ponderosa pine forest* is a habitat dominated by ponderosa pine trees.
- In Zion, this forest is found at the highest elevations of the park, typically on plateau and mountain tops.
- Many different plants and animals find home in a ponderosa pine forest.
- Zion ponderosa pine forest features:
  - · Some water availability, largely from monsoon rains or snowmelt
  - · Dry air most of the year
  - · Occasional fires, particularly in spring and fall
  - · Sun on the outside and shade on the interior of the tree canopy
  - · Warm summers and cold, snowy winters